

**RADIOLOGIC DIAGNOSIS OF RENAL PARENCHYMAL DISEASE.** By Alan J. Davidson (pp. xv + 317; figs. 202; £19.50). Philadelphia, London, Toronto: W. B. Saunders. 1977.

THIS is the eleventh in a series of monographs dealing with various aspects of radiology. The book is of special interest since Dr. Davidson from Mount Zion Hospital, San Francisco, an authority on renal disease, wrote most of the text while on sabbatical leave in London, under the critical eye of his British contemporaries. The radiologic assessment of renal parenchymal disease is discussed on the basis of pathologic anatomy and physiology.

The introductory chapters concern radiographic technique, renal anatomy and embryology. Pathological processes are discussed in "Diagnostic Sets" based on the size and shape of the kidneys on the plain film and intravenous pyelogram. While this is a practical approach, and useful for reference purposes, the natural evolution of disease and clinico-pathological correlation are necessarily rather disjointed as similar conditions must be included in several of the eight "Diagnostic Sets".

The excellent illustrations demonstrate the value of properly supervised intravenous pyelography, especially the use of tomography to enhance detail. The role of renal arteriography and venography and the value of ultrasound in the evaluation of renal mass lesions is well documented. In a book devoted to renal disease it is surprising to find no discussion on the value of radioactive isotopes, while cysto-urethrography is given scant mention. Another criticism is the apparent acceptance of simple retrograde pyelography as a valuable and acceptable technique.

With a comprehensive bibliography, this is a good reference book for the radiologist or urologist, and for those training for F.R.C.R. distils much useful information. J.P.B.

**MUNRO KERR'S OPERATIVE OBSTETRICS (NINTH EDITION).** By P. R. Myerscough (pp. 896; figs. 310; colour plates 9; £15.00). London: Balliere Tindall.

THE ninth edition of this famous text-book appears nearly seventy years after its first publication (*Operative Midwifery* by J. Munro Kerr, 1908). It still remains the standard British text and is essential reading for the postgraduate preparing for higher degrees. The book is primarily concerned with the techniques and operative procedures of obstetric care but includes the whole range of obstetric complications which call for operative intervention. During the past decade there have been great changes in many aspects of labour ward management, with a new and more critical appraisal of many operative procedures and their effect on the newborn infant and its subsequent development. The use of the partogram, selective augmentation and electronic monitoring of labour are fully discussed and reflect important changes in management. A new chapter on anaesthesia and analgesia have been introduced, with particular reference to the nerve-blocking procedures. The text contains details of many obstetric manoeuvres which are now rarely, if ever, used in current obstetric practice in this country, but, as the author points out, he is aiming to serve a world-wide readership. In many parts of the Third World it may be necessary to achieve vaginal delivery in spite of increased maternal risk, for resort to caesarean section can have serious implication, social and medical, for the patient concerned.

Inevitably, many passages dealing with historical topics have had to be sacrificed, along with interesting case histories by Munro Kerr and Chassar Moir, which undoubtedly made the book more readable. Widespread and important references are listed at the end of each chapter and these will prove most useful to the postgraduate student.

In spite of the inclusion of many new topics, reflecting advances in care, the size of this edition, when compared with its predecessor in 1971, is not greatly increased. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the price and, despite this, the paper is thin enough to allow the print to show through on both sides. Otherwise the production is satisfactory and the author is to be congratulated on a fine achievement. W.T.